

## 9. CHRISTCHURCH CITY PROPOSED NEW SPEED LIMITS

<b>General Manager responsible:</b>	Jane Parfitt, General Manager City Environment, DDI 941 8656
<b>Officer responsible:</b>	Michael Atiken, Manager Transport and Greenspace
<b>Author:</b>	Malcolm Taylor, Traffic Engineer

### PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to seek the Council's consent to the undertaking of the consultation required in order to set new speed limits on the roads listed in the schedule attached to this report.

### BACKGROUND

2. At the Council seminar on 1 August 2006 Councillors were briefed on proposals to change certain speed limits on roads within the city. These changes are considered necessary because of new subdivision developments and the changing use and environment of other roads within the Christchurch City Urban Traffic Area.
3. The Council is responsible for setting speed limits on those roads within its district in respect of which it is the road controlling authority. The authority for the Council to do this is contained in the Land Transport Rule: Setting of Speed Limits 2003, Rule 5004 ("the Rule") and the Christchurch City Speed Limit Bylaw 2005 ("the Bylaw").
4. In setting speed limits the Council must comply with the requirements of the Rule. It requires the Council to apply "Speed Limits New Zealand" for the setting of speed limits. "Speed Limits New Zealand" contains guidelines for setting speed limits and procedures for calculating speed limits. They are set out in Schedule 1 of the Rule. The Rule also prescribes the consultation that is required to be carried out for any proposed speed limit change.
5. The Council may set a speed limit that differs from the calculated speed limit under Speed Limits New Zealand. However, in this case there is provision in the Rule that must be complied with.

*"A speed limit different from the calculated speed limit is the safe and appropriate speed limit for a road with regard to the function, nature and use of the road, its environment, land use patterns and whether the road is an urban traffic area or a rural area".*

6. Once the provisions of the Rule have been complied with in relation to determining an appropriate speed and undertaking the necessary consultation, the Council may set that speed limit by passing a resolution under Clause 5 of the Bylaw. The new speed limit will then be recorded in the Council's Speed Limit Register.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

7. The particular roads in respect of which it is now proposed that new speed limits be set are set out in the schedule to this report. That schedule details the precise portions of the roads in question, the existing speed limits, the proposed new speed limits and the reasons why it is proposed that the existing speed limits be changed. Where the proposed speed limit differs from the speed limit calculated in accordance with Speed Limits New Zealand, they are detailed together with the reasons specified in the Schedule.
8. In respect of each proposed speed limit, the evaluation prescribed by Speed Limits New Zealand has been carried out by consultant Antoni Facey of Facey Consultants.
9. The need to set new speed limits on the roads referred to in the schedule came to the attention of staff during the preparation of the Christchurch City Speed Limit Bylaw 2005. These proposed changes are due to new subdivision developments, and the changing use and environment of other roads.

10. Before a speed limit is set or changed the Section 7.1(2)(c) of the Rule requires that consultation is carried out with the following persons that may be affected by the proposed speed limit:
  - Commissioner of NZ Police
  - Director Land Transport New Zealand
  - CEO NZ Automobile Association Incorporated
  - CEO Road Transport Forum NZ
  - Any local community that the Council considers to be affected by the proposed speed limit
  - Adjoining Road Controlling Authorities
  - Any other organisation or road user groups that the Council considers may be affected by the proposed speed limit
  - A territorial authority that is affected by the existing or proposed speed limit.
11. The Rule requires the Council to consult each of the persons listed above in writing, advising them of the proposed speed limit and giving them a reasonable time in which to make submissions on the proposal.
12. The term "*Any Local Community*" is not defined for the purposes of Section 7.1(2)(c) of the Rule. However, in respect of the roads referred to below it is considered that the appropriate persons to consult are the occupiers of those properties which adjoin those parts of the roads upon which it is proposed that the speed limits be changed and each Community Board in respect of whose area the roads lie.
13. In respect of the proposed new speed limits it is not considered that there is any other organisation or road user group that would be affected by those speed limits.
14. The proposed timetable for the completion of this review includes:
  - 1 August 2006 Council Seminar
  - 21 September 2006 Report to Council seeking agreement to consult
  - October 2006 Report to Community Boards seeking support for proposed changes
  - October 2006 Consultation with:
    - the required parties
    - directly affected properties occupiers.
    - Residents Groups
    - Newspapers
  - 27 October 2006 Closing date for consultation responses
  - 30 November 2006 Report to Council on consultation feed back and request to resolve speed limit changes
  - December 2006 Arrange for sign changes and to update Speed Limit Register, Map and Council Web site.
15. It is also proposed to install additional 50 km/h signs on the sections of median divided roads within the City that are not designated 60 km/h. Several motorists have expressed their uncertainty of the speed limit on median divided roads as many are now designated 60 km/h.

#### **FINANCIAL AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS**

16. The cost of new signs and the relocation of existing speed limit signs are within existing budgets.
17. The relevant legal considerations are set out above.

## **STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS**

That the Council resolve:

- (a) That consultation now be undertaken in respect of the proposed new speed limits set out in the schedule to this report.
- (b) That in each case the persons required to be consulted be given not less than two weeks in which to make submissions on the proposals.
- (c) That consultation be undertaken with the Selwyn District Council being a territorial authority that is affected by the speed limits proposed in respect of Jones Road, Early Valley Road, and Springs Road.
- (d) That consultation be undertaken with the Selwyn District Council being a road controlling authority that is responsible for roads that join or are near to Old Tai Tapu Road on which it is proposed that the speed limits be changed.
- (e) That consultation be undertaken with Transit NZ being a road controlling authority that is responsible for roads that join or are near to Foremans Road, Gardiners Road and Old Tai Tapu Road on which it is proposed that the speed limits be changed.
- (f) That for the purposes of consultation, “any local community” shall be those persons or organisations referred to in paragraph 12 above.